

PAD/ESS-60/61

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Cinemat Evaluation

## Declass Review by NIMA / DoD

STATINTL

The purpose of a scan operation is to promptly identify, locate and report on priority targets. The final product is therefore an intelligence report and not a piece of film. In the past five years, on only two occasions was the Center swamped with material. These occurred in the summers of 1956 and 1957. Present methods of operation are constantly being modified to solve problems created by new materials. This does not mean to discount the fact that we should plan for the future. However, planning should be on a sound practical basis.

The cinemat concept may be theoretically possible but for exploitation of photographic intelligence is not practical. In the scan operation it is not practical to view sections of a frame in the manner suggested and either reject a section or record data from it. The scanner needs to examine a large area and back track on the film in many instances before reaching a decision. Sometimes it is difficult enough to follow photographic detail from frame to frame without complicating matters by dividing a frame into small chips. There are also large areas in the Soviet Union where chip by chip viewing is entirely unnecessary let alone chip by chip viewing of extensive cloud covered areas.

The staff study states that it is difficult to assure that all photography has been viewed when using a lens that does not completely cover the format. This statement indicates that the writer does not completely understand the technique of scanning.

Viewers to present maps are mentioned in Phase I. Punched tape would drive a cursor on the viewer to keep the analyst oriented. How much time will it take to program this arrangement for each mission? Who is going to do it? The cursor system is going to depend entirely on map and plotting accuracy. How will the backup team receive the information from the scan team? What new equipment will a backup team need, to do its analysis?

If the system was to be used it would have to be on selective areas only. Otherwise it would be a very wasteful operation in both time and cost. The volume of film would certainly swamp us.